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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA

Integrated Fisheries Development
(GAM/77/002)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	January 1979
Starting date of project activities:	August 1977 1/
Planned completion date:	December 1980
To be executed by:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Fish Marketing Corporation in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MANR)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$1 051 300
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. Since the Gambia's economy is predominantly agricultural, the agricultural sector, centrally concerned with food production, dominates economic activities with an average share of 56 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Up to the present, however, the country has not derived from its fisheries resources the benefits they are capable of providing. In 1976 the Government therefore requested UNDP/FAO to field a multi-disciplinary mission to carry out a comprehensive and in-depth survey of the fishing industry. The mission considered that the central problem in the development of Gambian fisheries was the internal marketing.

2. In 1977 the Government accordingly requested the assistance of UNDP and FAO in the creation and development of the Fish Marketing Corporation (FMC), a Government statutory corporation responsible for the processing, distribution and marketing of fish caught in Gambian waters. The Government's development objective was to attain a significant increase in production (about 62 per cent) in the fishery sector, from 21,090 tons in 1976 to

1/ Project operations started in August 1977 pending signature of the project document by all parties concerned.

*In accordance with General Assembly Resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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34,230 tons in 1985. This was to be achieved by the possible creation of a small semi-industrial fleet and an expansion of traditional canoe landings.

3. In conjunction with the UNDP/FAO project the European Economic Community is assisting the Government in the development of the artisanal fisheries sector through the extension of an existing revolving fund, the construction of a fish handling/marketing complex and a fish processing demonstration centre, and the installation of an ice plant. Furthermore, the UNDP/FAO assistance is to be complemented by assistance of approximately $US5 million which the Government is presently negotiating with the Danish International Development Agency and which will cover the purchase of two fishing vessels as well as the provision of some technical assistance.

4. Although the prime beneficiary during the present pilot phase of the project will be the FMC, the project should go a long way to assisting the Government in attaining its priority goals of self-sufficiency in food production, raising nutritional standards and decreasing rural/urban income disparities.

II. Objectives and activities

5. The immediate objectives of the project are to assist in the establishment of the Fish Marketing Corporation (FMC) and to improve and expand the internal/external distribution of fresh and processed fish both by the FMC and by the artisanal sector. Concurrently, the project will assist in establishing, in the course of the pilot phase, a small-operation fleet of semi-industrial vessels to catch fish on behalf of the FMC. The activities to be undertaken will consist of substantive technical advice regarding the operations of the FMC in *inter alia* areas of business management, fishing, fish marketing, refrigeration engineering/plant maintenance and fish processing.

III. Inputs

6. UNDP will provide international staff with the necessary professional and technical experience to guide the growth of FMC in the areas of fish marketing, processing refrigeration, and fishing techniques. In addition, UNDP inputs will include consultancy missions in the fields of the smoking of fish, product development, civil engineering, (jetty construction) and naval architecture, as well as for a preparatory mission for a Phase II project (possible boat-building activity). Finally, the present project makes provision for both in-service and formal training, and for attachments to commercial concerns abroad for the national staff of FMC.

7. Initial Government/FMC inputs will include the provision of FMC working capital, a cold store and a plate freezer.

IV. Financial data

8. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	870 800
Training	15 500
Equipment	150 000
Miscellaneous	15 000
	1 051 300

9. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $1,537,800 in kind.